

Message Text

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SUBJECT: SECRETARY MORTON'S MEETING WITH FIRST SECRETARY EDWARD
GIEREK, OCTOBER 7, 1975

REF: (A) STATE 243700; (B) WARSAW 6942

1. FOLLOWING HIS INITIAL WELCOMING REMARKS AND SECRETARY MORTON'S RESPONSE, GIEREK SAID WITH EVIDENT ASPERITY THAT THE SECRETARY HAD UNDOUBTEDLY HEARD SOME OF THE RUMORS THAT WERE GOING AROUND ABOUT FOOD SUPPLIES AND PRICES. EVERYTING IN THIS COUNTRY, HE SAID, IS POLITICIZED. EVEN THE FIRE AT A WARSAW DEPARTMENT STORE WAS POLITICIZED AND SOME PEOPLE WERE SAYING THAT IT WAS SABOTAGE OR A PROTEST OF SOME SORT. THERE WAS NOTING POLITICAL ABOUT IT, GIEREK SAID HEATEDLY. IT WAS A CRIMINAL ACT, EITHER CRIMINAL NEGLIGENCE OR ARSON. THE INVESTIGATION WAS STILL CONTINUING AND THE PERPETRATOR OR PERPETRATORS HAD NOT YET BEEN CAUGHT, BUT HE WAS SURE THEY WOULD BE. THEY WOULD THEN BE PUNISHED AS CRIMINALS. THERE HAD BEEN SOME OTHER FIRES, WHICH HAD ALSO BEEN ASCRIBED TO POLITICAL MOTIVES. IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHO HAD STARTED THESE RUMORS, BUT, WHOEVER, IT WAS, THE MOTIVATION WAS A HARMFUL ONE.

2. DESPITE THESE EFFORTS TO STIR PEOPLE UP AND THE REMAINING REAL PROBLEMS IT WAS WORKING TO SOLVE, THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO RAISE LIVING STANDARDS WERE SUCCESSFUL. WESTERN TECHNOLOGY HAD BEEN IMPORTED AND

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WAS BEING ASSIMILATED. PERHAPS IT HAD TAKEN LONGER

ATO DO THIS THAN THE LEADERSHIP HAD ORIGINALLY THOUGHT IT WOULD, BUT SUCCESSES IN THIS AREA WERE NOW EVIDENT AND THE LEADERSHIP WOULD CONTINUE TO FOLLOW THIS POLICY. INDEED, IT WAS VERY HARD TO SEE WHAT OTHER POLICY ANY POLISH GOVERNMENT COULD POSSIBLY HAVE FOLLOWED.

3. SECRETARY MORTON SAID THAT HE HAD VISITED THE SWIERCZEWSKI PRECISION INSTRUMENTS FACTORY, UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF MINISTER WRZASZCZYK, AND HAD BEEN MOST IMPRESSED WITH IT. HE HAD BEEN THROUGH A LOT OF PLANTS AND HE COULD TELL THE FIRST SECRETARY THAT THE ONE HE HAD SEEN HERE IN WARSAW WAS AS GOOD AS ANY. THE FLOW OF MATERIALS WAS EFFICIENT, THE PRODUCTS WERE CAREFULLY ENGINEERED, AND IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE WORKERS TOOK PRIDE IN THEIR WORK. THE FIRST SECRETARY SAID THAT HE KNEW HOW GOOD THIS PLANT WAS, ALTHOUGH IT WAS OLD AND NEEDED CONSTANT MODERNIZATION, BUT HE THOUGHT IT WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY TO PASS ON THE SECRETARY'S GOOD WORDS TO MINISTER WRZASZCZYK, WHO WAS ALREADY SUFFICIENTLY DEMANDING WITH REGARD TO WHAT WAS NEEDED TO MAINTAIN THE HIGH STANDARD OF THIS PLANT. SECRETARY MORTON SAID HE COULD IMAGINE THAT MINISTER WRZASZCZYK MIGHT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SUCH AN OPPORTUNITY TO ASK FOR GREATER INVESTMENT IN THE PLANT.

4. AGAIN DISPLAYING SOME HEAT, THE FIRST SECRETARY SAID THAT MINISTER WRZASZCZYK WAS CRITICIZED BY "SOME PEOPLE" FOR BITING OFF MORE THAN HE COULD CHEW, FOR IMPORTING SO MANY NEW PLANTS INTO POLAND, AND FOR LOOKING "ONLY TOWARDS THE PLACE WHERE THE SUN SETS". WELL, THE FIRST SECRETARY REPEATED, IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO SEE WHAT OTHER POLICY COULD BE FOLLOWED. IT MIGHT BE TRUE THAT WRZASZCZYK TRIED TO DO TOO MANY THINGS AT ONCE, BUT THEY WERE ALL GOOD THINGS. THE GENERAL MOTORS AND RCA-CORNING DEALS WERE CASES IN POINT. IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO BRING POLISH INDUSTRY UP TO THE BEST STANDARDS AND THEN TO EXPORT ITS PRODUCTS TO PAY FOR THE LICENSES. SO HE COULD NOT ACCEPT THIS KIND OF CRITICISM AS VALID.

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5. COMMENT: THE FIRST SECRETARY WAS OBVIOUSLY DISTURBED BY THE SPATE OF RUMORS CIRCULATING IN WARSAW. HIS ATTITUDE TOWARDS SECRETARY MORTON WAS CORDIAL AND HE WAS EMPHATIC IN INSISTING THAT THE POLISH LEADERSHIP WOULD CONTINUE TO BUY IN THE WEST. ONCE AGAIN, HE DISPLAYED HIS STRONG INTEREST IN CONCLUDING THE GENERAL MOTORS AND RCA-CORNING DEALS. END COMMENT.

DAVIES

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